

Housing facilities for asylum seekers in Germany: ethical concerns regarding social exclusion, othering and negative effects on health [Abstract]

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inclusion and exclusion and how this affects participation and autonomy.

Conclusions:

Apart from contributing to barriers in accessing health care different types of “exclusive” housing for asylum seekers often impedes on social participation and disempowers autonomous choices. Since social exclusion is known to affect (mental) health this raises concerns for health and well-being as well as several other ethical questions.

Questions for further discussion:

What is the responsibility of Public Health regarding the housing conditions of asylum seekers and the negative effects of othering on health?

How do we perceive this in the light of solidarity?

**Housing facilities for asylum seekers in Germany:
Ethical concerns regarding social exclusion, othering
and negative effects on health**

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Background:

Asylum seekers face many barriers in accessing health care and their well-being is impaired in manifold ways. According to Public Health research the impact on health of social determinants is much higher than the influence of access to health care. Therefore, it is important to take other living conditions like accommodation into serious consideration.

Methods:

The focus will be on how housing conditions allow or prevent opportunities for social participation and autonomy. As a philosophical-ethical paper this contribution attempts to identify moral concerns and ethical questions regarding housing situations under the lens of inclusion and exclusion. This will lead to the question whether they constitute forms of othering. In a first step it will be clarified how inclusion and exclusion are used as analytic frame, particularly whether and how far they are not only descriptive terms but also normative ones. Exemplary cases of housing facilities for asylum seekers in Germany will be given and questioned regarding practices of